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THIRD PROGRESS REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE UNITED NATIONS ANGOLA VERIFICATION MISSION (UNAVEM III)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 7 of Security Council resolution 976 (1995) of 8 February, in which the Council asked me to inform it monthly of progress in the deployment of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) and in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol (S/1994/1441, annex). It covers major developments since my last report, dated 7 April (S/1995/274).

II. POLITICAL SITUATION

2. During the period under review, my Special Representative, Mr. Alioune Blondin Beye, continued his efforts to promote the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol and to consolidate recent positive developments in the political and military situation in the country. In this connection, he held consultations with the heads of State of Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe in order to make arrangements for the meeting between the President of Angola, Mr. José Eduardo dos Santos, and Mr. Jonas Savimbi, the leader of the União Nacional para a Independencia Total de Angola. It will be recalled that the Security Council, in its presidential statement dated 13 April (S/PRST/1995/18), placed special emphasis on the importance of such a meeting.

3. During the period under review, my Special Representative met on several occasions with President dos Santos and senior officials of the Government, including the Chief of General Staff of the Forças Armadas Angolanas, General Joao de Matos, to discuss various questions relating to the peace process. On 7 April, my Special Representative, accompanied by the government and UNITA delegations to the Joint Commission and by representatives of the three observer States (Portugal, Russian Federation and United States of America), travelled to Bailundo for a special session of the Commission, in which Mr. Savimbi also participated. During the meeting, the government delegation delivered to Mr. Savimbi a letter dated 6 April from

President dos Santos, in which he reiterated the Government's determination to guarantee the successful implementation of the Lusaka Protocol and to bring about lasting peace and national reconciliation.

4. On 14 April 1995, my Special Representative met in Gbadolité, Zaire, with President Mobutu Sese Seko, Mr. Savimbi, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Amara Essy, who delivered a message from the President of his country to the UNITA leader. On the same day, a communiqué was issued, in which Mr. Savimbi reiterated his readiness to meet with President dos Santos. Preparations for the meeting are currently at an advanced stage. A UNITA delegation travelled to Luanda, where it held talks with the head of the government delegation to the Joint Commission. Upon its return to Bailundo, it was announced that agreement had been reached on the agenda for the meeting, as well as on a number of other practical details. On 21 April, my Special Representative went to Lusaka to discuss with President Chiluba the final arrangements for the meeting.

5. In the meantime, the Joint Commission, under the chairmanship of my Special Representative, held several sessions in Luanda during the month of April 1995. In addition to a review of the implementation by the parties of the conditions set forth in paragraph 4 of resolution 976 (1995) and in my recent reports concerning the deployment of United Nations troops, the Commission considered a wide range of practical questions, some of which are described in section III below.

6. Despite initial delays in finalizing the status-of-forces agreement for UNAVEM III, all major difficulties have been resolved and the document was signed on 3 May 1995.

III. MILITARY AND POLICE MATTERS

7. Security Council resolution 976 (1995) called upon the Government and UNITA to implement certain tasks before the deployment of United Nations infantry units to Angola could take place. These conditions include an effective cessation of hostilities; disengagement of government and UNITA forces; setting up of verification mechanisms; establishment of communication links between the Government, UNITA and UNAVEM; provision to the United Nations of relevant military data; and the early start of demining. The Security Council, in its presidential statement of 13 April, welcomed the progress that had been made and commended the parties for their efforts in that regard. At the same time, the Council reminded the Angolan parties that they must implement without delay the requirements of the Lusaka Protocol and provide UNAVEM with logistical support.

8. During the period under review, the cease-fire in Angola continued to hold generally. There has been a further reduction in the number of cease-fire violations, but the situation in several areas has remained tense, as both sides have continued to occupy forward positions, sporadically attacked the local population and conducted movements of their troops. Formal complaints were lodged by both the Government and UNITA, but only some of the cases reported could be confirmed by UNAVEM, since its movements in some areas were still restricted by poor road conditions, mines, bridge outages and other factors.

9. Despite some problems, the second phase of disengagement has been almost completed. UNAVEM is continuing its efforts to assist the parties in implementing this phase of disengagement, which covers the provinces of Lunda Norte, Lunda Sul and Moxico, as soon as possible; a working group of the Joint Commission will visit these areas to verify that the disengagement has been completed.

10. Although considerable progress has been made in the establishment of communication links among the parties and UNAVEM, a number of difficulties persist. Contacts with government troops have been successfully established in all regions, but effective communication with UNITA exists only in regions of Huambo and Uige. At remote United Nations team sites in the north-eastern, eastern, southern and south-eastern regions, UNITA liaison officers remain stationed near the United Nations team sites instead of being co-located with UNAVEM regional headquarters.

11. No additional military data have been provided to the United Nations by the Government or UNITA since the meetings of their general chiefs of staff in November 1994. I must stress once again that this information is essential for the implementation of future stages of the peace process. At the same time, important progress was achieved by the Joint Commission at its fourteenth regular session, which was held in Luanda on 20 April 1995. The parties agreed on the principle of "global incorporation" of UNITA soldiers into the national army, to be followed by gradual demobilization, until the Forças Armadas Angolanas reaches the level of 90,000 troops, a figure that both parties have accepted.

12. UNAVEM has continued efforts to accelerate the start of country-wide demining. Although the Government and UNITA have pledged to put 800 and 400 personnel, respectively, at the disposal of UNAVEM for mine-clearance activities, both parties have yet to release the funds or equipment necessary in order for the programme to become operational. In the meantime, UNAVEM has recommended to the parties that they begin mine-sweeping operations on major roads under their control to make possible the expeditious deployment of United Nations troops. Reconnaissance of these routes is expected to start on 7 May 1995.

13. The advance party of the Logistics Battalion provided by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has arrived in Lobito/Catumbela and is making the necessary preparations for the establishment of the logistics base and the deployment of UNAVEM III infantry units. According to the revised schedule, the first infantry elements are expected to arrive in Angola in the second half of May 1995. By this time, all UNAVEM support units, including engineer, communication, helicopter, naval and medical units, should be installed. In the meantime, the deployment of military observers to all 53 team sites has been completed. Progress has also been made in obtaining facilities in Luanda and in several other areas of the country for the use of the Mission.

14. With the arrival of the Police Commissioner, the civilian police component of UNAVEM III has become fully operational. As of 26 April, 185 civilian police observers from 17 countries have been deployed to all 29 team sites, including the 6 regional headquarters. Their activities include extensive patrolling;

visiting Angolan police stations and jails; verifying and monitoring activities of the Angolan national police; and receiving and investigating complaints involving human rights violations. In addition, the civilian police observers are often asked to assist the Angolan police or local authorities in various investigations.

15. It will be recalled that one of the main elements of the Lusaka Protocol is the quartering of the Rapid Reaction Police. Preparations for this process must be expedited. In order to begin quartering the Rapid Reaction Police in a timely manner, accommodation in barracks with adequate facilities is to be provided by the Government in the eight locations agreed upon by the parties. At the same time, reports have been received from UNAVEM civilian police observers that some of these police elements are currently deployed to areas other than the above eight locations.

IV. HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

16. Since mid-March, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been able to extend their humanitarian and rehabilitation programmes to several previously inaccessible areas in Angola. Emergency programmes recently launched in new areas have been consolidated and the situation in those areas has improved. In the meantime, assessment missions to a number of other areas, such as Cuemba (Bie), Cafunfo and Lucapa (Lunda Norte), Mussende and Quibala (Kwanza Sul), and Toto (Uige), have been organized. Additional missions to several other isolated communities have been planned.

17. Efforts to intensify the distribution of humanitarian aid by road have begun to show results. Several overland convoys were successfully organized over the reporting period, from Sumbe to Waku Kungo and Quibala in Kwanza Sul province and from Lobito to Cubal in Benguela Province. Humanitarian organizations have also travelled by road in Malanje province and halfway through Huambo province. However, as a result of logistic constraints, mine pollution and banditry, overland access to many parts of Angola is still restricted. Although some progress has been made in opening portions of the three main road corridors - Luanda/Malanje, Benguela/Kuito and Namibe/Menongue - much reconstruction and mine-clearing work remains to be done. These same factors are hindering the return of displaced people to their places of origin. As a result, the World Food Programme (WFP) airlift operation remains essential to the humanitarian aid programme.

18. A substantial increase has been registered in the number of mine incidents involving civilians. Meanwhile, specialized NGOs, in cooperation with the United Nations Central Mine Action Office, continue to train Angolan deminers and to clear both land-mines and unexploded ordnance in Kuito, Luena and Malanje. For humanitarian purposes, the Government and UNITA have both agreed to provide the United Nations with information on the location of mines.

19. During the reporting period, members of the United Nations Demobilization and Reintegration Office visited UNITA headquarters in Bailundo to discuss the humanitarian assistance component of the demobilization and reintegration programme. The Office also participated in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on

Demobilization, which is chaired by my Special Representative. This Committee, among other tasks, is considering the implications of the recent agreement between the Government and UNITA on global incorporation of UNITA forces into the national army. The second phase of the survey on the social and economic needs of demobilized soldiers from UNITA and the Forças Armadas Angolanas was launched with visits to several parts of the country. The results of this survey will be used in the design of training and social reintegration programmes.

20. While some donors have confirmed the pledges made in response to the 1995 United Nations consolidated inter-agency appeal for Angola, others have yet to announce their contributions. WFP is currently experiencing a serious shortfall in the supply of maize and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) a critical shortage of relief items, reducing the level of support that they can offer to NGOs. I strongly urge the international community to provide all possible assistance to the humanitarian projects of United Nations agencies and NGOs so that these organizations can adequately address the pressing needs of the Angolan people.

V. OBSERVATIONS

21. Since my last report, the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol has entered a new phase. There has been a marked improvement in the overall political climate in the country and in the attitude of the parties. However, these positive developments need to be consolidated and sustained. In this connection, it is my hope that the meeting between President dos Santos and Mr. Savimbi will result in concrete agreements and provide the necessary impetus to the full and timely implementation of the peace process.

22. Despite the progress that has been achieved, much more remains to be done in several areas. The gradual and phased deployment of the United Nations infantry battalions will undoubtedly provide additional momentum to the peace process. However, I would like to reiterate that I shall not hesitate to recommend to the Council that the deployment of the troops be postponed or stopped if the parties fail to fulfil their commitments under the Lusaka Protocol and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

23. It is imperative that the arrival of United Nations formed units be accompanied by increased cooperation of the Government and UNITA with the United Nations in carrying out all major provisions of the Protocol, including the release of prisoners. I must also reiterate my concern about the slow progress in demining, opening up of major roads and repair of airfields and other vital infrastructure. The positive decisions that were taken in this regard and the special plan formulated by the Joint Commission at its fifth extraordinary session on 26 April should be executed without delay. If these critical steps are not taken immediately, it will not be possible for United Nations infantry to be deployed to the various regions in Angola in a timely manner. I call upon the Government and UNITA to take urgent action to make available the necessary funds and equipment, in addition to the personnel they have promised to provide to begin mine clearance. I also urge the international community to support this vital effort actively.

24. It is essential that the Angolan parties facilitate further the deployment and unhindered operations of UNAVEM III throughout Angola and that they provide it with all necessary facilities and services. The present phase of the peace process also demands that appropriate urgent attention be given to various aspects of the quartering of UNITA soldiers and the withdrawal of government troops to their barracks. Timely and systematic preparation for these processes will be vital for the incorporation of UNITA troops into the national army and police and for the ultimate success of the peace process.

25. The improvement in security conditions has made new areas accessible to humanitarian agencies, thereby increasing their potential to assist the civilian population. It is therefore essential that Member States act expeditiously to convert the good will expressed at the February 1995 donors' meeting into tangible contributions. It is equally important that the Government of Angola and UNITA extend the highest degree of cooperation to the United Nations and its agencies, as well as to NGOs, and that they take all possible measures to promote the expansion of humanitarian activities in Angola.

Annex

UNAVEM III military and civilian police personnel

(as of 26 April 1995)

Country	Military observers	Civilian police officers	Military medical personnel	Staff officers	Troops	Total
Algeria	10					10
Argentina	2	3				5
Bangladesh	10	1				11
Brazil	19	16	11			46
Bulgaria	10	10				20
Congo	8					8
Egypt	10	10				20
Fiji		10				10
France	8					8
Guinea-Bissau	18	6				24
Hungary	10	15				25
India	20	19				39
Jordan	20	20				40
Kenya	10					10
Malaysia	20	20				40
Mali	10					10
Morocco		2				2
Netherlands	15	10				25
New Zealand	7					7
Nigeria	20	15				35
Pakistan	5					5
Norway	4					4
Poland	7					7
Portugal	6	1		1		8
Russian Federation	10					10
Senegal	10					10
Slovakia	5					5
Sweden	19					19
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland				5	336	341
Uruguay	10					10
Zambia	10	10				20
Zimbabwe	21	17		3		41
Total	334	185	11	9	336	875

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